

TOWN OF WEBSTER
Office of Selectmen
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Webster Board of Selectmen's Meeting – January 12, 2009

7:00 P.M. Roll Call – Present: Chairman George Hashem, Selectman Thomas Mullins and Selectman David Klumb.

The Board signed the payroll check and vendor manifests.

Selectman Klumb made motions to accept the Minutes of December 15 and 29, 2008 as written; these were seconded by Selectman Mullins and approved unanimously.

A Purchase Order for a carbide blade was signed for the Road Agent; however, the Board requested back-up information to go along with the Purchase Order.

A Letter of Commitment agreeing to participate and cooperate with the Town of Henniker in a Household Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Project to be held Saturday, October 3, 2009, was presented. \$1,875.00 was the amount necessary to appropriate for this endeavor. Selectman Klumb made a motion to sign the commitment, seconded by Selectman Mullins, approved unanimously.

Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham received permission to sign the commitment for health insurance through Local Government Center. However, it was agreed that an earlier review process for health insurance would be conducted next year.

Fire Chief Pouliot stated that the Town responded to 170 calls for 2008. This was up 16 from last year. He reported that the Town has been awarded 2009 Volunteer Fire Assistance funds from the Division of Forests and Lands to help purchase a portable fire pump. Election of officers was held. Lieutenant Colin Colby was elected to Captain and Firefighter 5 Corey Welcome was elected to Lieutenant. The Cascade System is on order.

Police Chief Milano handed in his semi-monthly report.

The Road Agent had nothing new to report on roads.

Mary Smith will send a response to Equity Group Realtors regarding Little Hill Road attaching the appropriate RSA for “road to summer cottages”.

Due to a propane delivery, the encumbrance amount for propane at the Public Safety Building needs to be changed from \$1,982.67 to \$1,321.11. Motion to approve made by Selectman Klumb, seconded by Selectman Mullins and approved unanimously.

Chairman Hashem opened the Budget Review process for public comment. The main concern was full time police coverage. Money has been added to the budget for on-call and overtime coverage. Part of this is to cover vacations and holidays. The Police Chief was asked a number of times if these funds were adequate to provide coverage 24/7. Each time he responded in the affirmative with the proviso that, while the money is there, coverage is only available if personnel are available to cover. If there is no one available, the State Police would have to provide coverage. A comment was made that if an officer repeatedly refuses to cover these shifts, he should be terminated. It was reported that this has been done in the past. Selectmen also inquired if there were money in the budget to cover training at the academy. The Police Chief responded that there was money in the budget to cover training at the academy for one new uncertified officer.

The new policy of employees who elect family coverage having to pay a portion of their health insurance premiums was discussed. While it appears to be directed solely to the police force, it will apply to any individuals that choose family plans. For this initial year, the individuals involved were given a salary increase to cover the gap.

7:45pm Public comment closed.

Explanation was given about moneys taken from surplus for expendable trusts and for the Highway Land/Building Fund. These funds are being built up for use in case of future emergencies.

Selectman Mullins stated that he had attended a Hopkinton's Selectmen Meeting and that there are issues with the wells. So far no dollar figure has been proposed.

Selectman Klumb questioned how the increase in the bottom line of the budget will affect next year's tax rate. Wendy Pinkham will get back to him on this once the revenue numbers are completed.

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Warrant needs to be finalized by January 26 so Articles can be voted on by Selectmen.

Chief Milano wishes to add a Warrant Article to change the name of the Current Capital Reserve Fund set up to purchase portable radios so as to be able to purchase tasers with that money. A discussion ensued around the appropriateness of using tasers. Wendy Pinkham will get in touch with our Liability Insurance Carrier to get their input. It was suggested that the title of the fund be changed to something more generic such as police equipment.

8:20 Selectman Mullins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Klumb. This was agreed upon by unanimous vote.

George K. Hashem

Thomas S. Mullins

David E. Klumb

BOS/ms